

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5 No. 4 Aug. 29 '75



Outside of perhaps the Physical Education Division, the fittest department on campus must be Buildings and Grounds. Not to mention the healthy outdoor work, B & G personnel have at their disposal about 40 bicycles which they use to whip themselves and equipment around UVic's widely-flung campus. That has always been the practice, even well before the bicycle fad was taken up by a flabby society-at-large. Here, from the left, are Rod Antrobus, Maurice Mollin, John Drew and Ed Lewis. (Hey, someone up there, we want some bicycles, too.) (McGill Photo)

MANY REJECTIONS

Although enrolment at UVic will again be substantially higher this fall, tougher entrance requirements are preventing the situation from reaching crisis proportions.

Dr. Esme Foord, Director of Admissions, said that 600 first-time applications have been rejected because of the new C-plus entrance requirement. Earlier this year, Senate raised the requirement from a C average, and for the first time a July 31 deadline for applications was enforced by a university hard-pressed for space in the face of dramatically climbing enrolment.

As the picture stood late last week, there are 2,840 first time applications accepted for all years, an increase of about 160 over last year. Out of this total, 1,825 are new applications for first year.

The re-registration total was 5,042, an increase of 800 over last year.

This gives a total of 7,882 applications accepted for the term, an increase of 914 students over last year's official enrolment total.

However, the number of students who do show up for registration in the first week of enrolment and early attrition should bring this total down to below last year's record increase of 899 students.

Professor Betty Kennedy, a special assistant to the president who is charged with streamlining the registration process, said that since the university is keeping the first-time number of students under control, the strain won't be as severe as last year.

"It is easier for the university to absorb the large increase in re-registrants because they are spread over three levels instead of one."

Professor Kennedy said that during this academic year UVic will give special emphasis on sending into the high schools special teams to help advise students to

make better choices in courses that will prepare them for university entrance.

She said that often high school students will take a programme that has a minimum in academic courses, and therefore they are bereft in skills needed for survival in university, such as essay writing, and competence in mathematics.

FALL RECREATION

Registration for an expanded fall Athletics and Recreation programme will run September 2 to 12.

A brochure on the programme, which embraces everything from social dance to a national lifeguard course, from leagues in co-ed inner tube water polo to soccer, are available at McKinnon 121, where registration must be made in person.

Co-ordinator Penny Lough said that this year a small instructional fee of \$5 to \$6 will be charged. "It is our experience that people become more involved in a course if they pay for it."

Miss Lough said that because of last year's demand, the programme will be mainly expanded in aquatics and dance.

However, general recreational pool time has been reduced considerably from last year. During the week it will be from noon to 1:30 p.m. and from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., and on Tuesdays and Thursday an additional hour from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m. During last spring, there was at least two more hours each day for a general swim.

Mike Elcock, Athletics and Recreation manager, said the pool hours have been reduced because of a lack of demand in morning and mid-afternoon and because of the cost of lifeguards and locker room staff.

Mr. Elcock said that if demand does otherwise increase more pool time will be considered.

Weekend family swims will be continued, with times for both Saturday and Sunday being 10 a.m. to noon, and 2 to 5 p.m.

Hours of general recreation in both the McKinnon gymnasium and the old gymnasium are outlined in the brochure.

Among the highlights of the programme are Scottish country dancing — "a social form of dance and not so strenuous as Highland." It will be taught

by one of seven qualified instructors of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in Victoria. Walter Muir, assistant dean of Education, will play the bagpipes at the opening class on September 19.

As an introduction to a new course in recreational synchronized swimming, a clinic will be held September 30 at 8:30 p.m. at McKinnon pool, featuring Victoria's Chrystallettes Synchronized Swim Team.

For advanced swimmers, three courses in sequence leading to certification standards of the National Lifeguard Service.

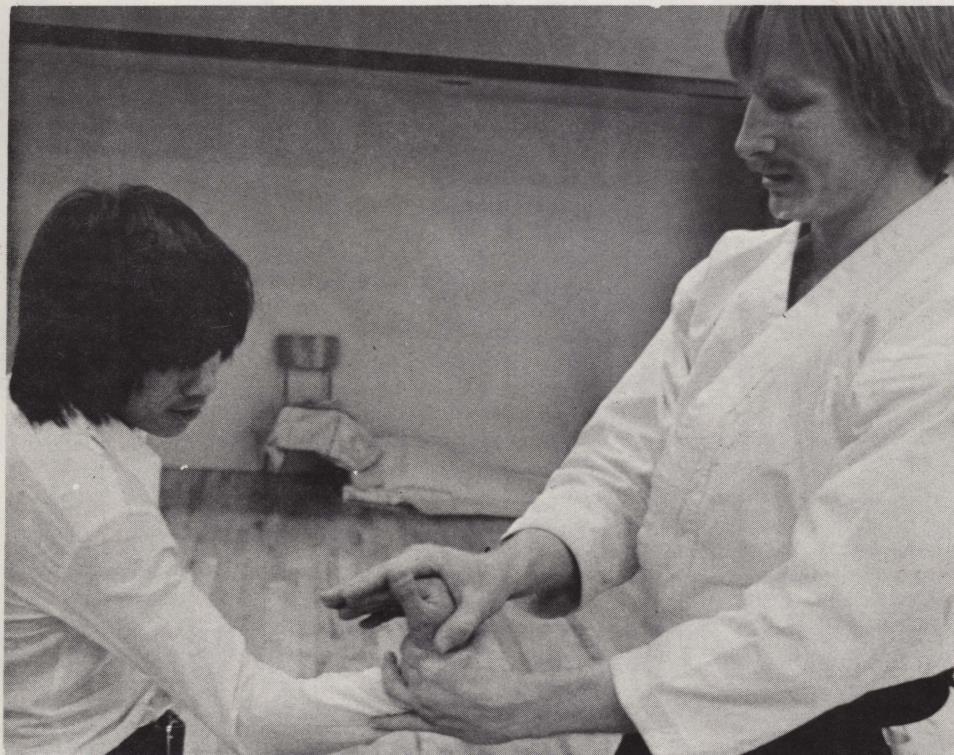
Because of the success of inner tube

water polo last term, water volleyball will be added to the list of intramurals.

Scuba (including ocean dives), kayak, springboard diving and various swim courses for the non-swimmer to the expert swimmer will be offered.

The programme also contains fitness courses, yoga, aikido ("the non-fighting martial art"), creative dance and rhythmicics.

For the highly popular squash courts, a permanent board will be displayed this year whereby persons can be assured games with others having about the same degree of competency.



Aikido master Gary Mois applies a Kote gaeshi hold on Dick Son Pang, a second-year Arts and Science student, in demonstrating the martial art he will be teaching this fall in the McKinnon dance studio. However, the idea of Aikido is not to mangle your opponent. Although it is primarily a self-defence art, the ideal of Aikido is not "to think of defeating your enemy, but rather to be in harmony with him, spiritually and physically." Mr. Mois, a fifth-degree black belt with the rank of shodan, has recently moved to Victoria from Hawaii, where he studied under various Aikido masters for 3½ years.

MAKING IT IN CANADA

William Valgardson is a writer who came back to Canada, and it isn't hurting him in the least, thanks to six productive years in the U.S.

As is often the case with Canadians, the recognition first came in the U.S., and now it is spreading rapidly within his homeland.

Hailed as one of the top short story writers in North America, as well as being no mean poet, Mr. Valgardson, 36, came to UVic a year ago as a sessional lecturer and has now been appointed as associate professor.

But the native Manitoban is not here primarily because of his careers as writer

and teacher. In those respects it may have been better for him to stay in the U.S.

He was to become head of humanities at Cottey College in Missouri, a private college for women where he was chairman of the English department, and he had refused two offers for posts at large U.S. universities, one of which was located on the Gulf of Mexico, his favorite stomping ground.

While he was at Cottey, his literary career began to take off. *Bloodflowers*, the title short story for his first book of stories, appeared in *Tamarac Review* and subsequently was published in *Best American Short Stories*. Meanwhile, he was given a Star Award, which means one

of his poems was selected as one of the best four in the U.S. that year. And then came the President's Medal for having written the best short story in Canada.

"Things were going super well."

Why then UVic? "Because it is in Canada."

He went on to add that had Cottey College been in Canada "they wouldn't have dragged me out with dynamite and wild horses."

Why Canada? "Because my wife and I wanted very badly to bring our children up in Canada."

It was a long wait — and the children were already growing up — before the chance came in the form of an offer by Professor Robin Skelton, chairman of the Creative Writing Department.

"I had been trying to land a job with a Canadian university for five years."

When he had completed two years with the writers' workshop at the University of Iowa in 1969, he wrote every university in Canada in search of a job and was met with "a resounding silence".

That workshop was the turning point in his life. "Everybody who was anybody in writing was there during those two years. The workshop is the best there is. There is just no other place to match it."

During that time he won an international scholarship in writing, but most of all, being taught by top writers, "I learned in a matter of months what I couldn't do in the six or seven years before."

That proved to him that writing can be taught and should be taught by universities, as it has always been the case in music and the fine arts.

He noted that UVic's two-year-old Creative Writing Department is only the second one in Canada, the other being at the University of British Columbia. He expressed conviction that given time, UVic could become a major centre for writers, as did Iowa.

Mr. Valgardson, who describes himself as an abrasive but honest man in his opinions, talked at length about being a teacher of writers.

It boiled down to "talent is cheap, discipline isn't."

He said most students come to him believing in "the bolt-from-God theory of writing." This he tries to knock out of them. "Great books have never been written. They were rewritten...and rewritten."

The over-sensitive prima donnas, because they can't accept criticism, won't make it in his books.

"I work for the perfect, and I expect my students to work as hard as I work."

Hard work has shaped a talent which is drawing plaudits from all corners, and, unusually enough, a wide readership in this once hardest of countries for Canadian writers.

A recent review in the *Globe and Mail* on his latest book of short stories, *God is*

Not a Fish Inspector, says: "Valgardson's stories are spare without being stark, and realistic without being doggedly glum. He is no show-off stylist. He makes the writing so inconspicuously lucid that the reader seems to be in unobstructed contact with the writer's people and their harsh lives. Valgardson often acts simply as an observer who, like Turgenev in his ironic tales, lets nature do his literary plotting and shaping."

Bloodflowers has sold out three reprints in two years, which is a total of 5,000 volumes. "That, in short, is a Canadian best-seller." The book is going to become compulsory in Manitoba's high schools, and is being considered as a textbook in Saskatchewan and B.C., as well.

Mr. Valgardson just returned from Winnipeg, where the 1,600 advance copies of *God is Not a Fish Inspector* sold out immediately.

In June, he was invited by CBC to go to Toronto and be trained for writing taped television dramas and was given a contract to turn one of his short stories, *Saved*, into an hour-long production for the "Performance" series.

All this also reflects what Mr. Valgardson calls "the great awakening" in Canada in regard to the public finally accepting their own writers.

"In the U.S., the fact that I was a Canadian opened doors all over the place for me, because Canadian writers have first-rate reputations there."

The difference is that "Canadians are finally dropping that sad attitude of regarding themselves as colonials. We have always felt that we were colonials, not that other people have regarded us as such."

He said one thing that gets to him in academia is "some pseudo-sophisticates,

WILLIAM VALGARDSON...talent is cheap'



who in putting down things Canadian, are just trying to prove to themselves how worldly they are."

Why Valgardsons wanted to bring their children up in Canada was because they felt the atmosphere was more peaceful, the ways gentler, and the education system consistently better.

"Just before I came here, I was learning how to use a pistol."

Not to mention its aura of violence, the U.S. is also prone to anti-intellectualism. "For instance, because my son plays a flute he had to fight his way to and from school. Here there isn't any of that."

He said Americans may pour millions of dollars into education "but they don't

UVIC ARCHIVES

want it to take".

He said he had to teach his son how to read, write and count. "In Missouri, a student going into high school is wasting his time. They learn nothing but marching in bands and team sports."

He added that the same thing is beginning to happen in Canada — "the same mindlessness about courses. This scares me. You know, you read about schools of socializing experience, and never mind if the students can read or write. Unreal!"

Thankfully in Victoria, the Valgardsons are here to stay. His wife, Mary-Anne, who is from here, is a student in the Department of Linguistics, which they knew had a top reputation.



UVic has a new library on campus. As of the last count in March, it contained 26,500 volumes. It's the Faculty of Law library and it opens for regular business on September 3. It was only a little more than a year ago that Professor Diana Priestly began supervising the mammoth task of assembling the necessary volumes for start of classes this fall. The goal is 100,000 volumes in four years. In the photo is Michele Saunders, circulation supervisor. (McGill Photo)

INTENSIVE LAW START

UVic's Faculty of Law will open its programme next week with a unique month of introductory studies.

Dean Murray Fraser said that as an innovation not yet tried elsewhere the 72 successful applicants for the Faculty will be given an in-depth course on the whole system of legal process.

Involving all faculty and students, it will be the only course taught during the month of September, after which the regular curriculum will begin, he said.

The course will consist of panels, seminars and on many days six hours of classroom lectures, supplemented by extensive reading requirements.

He said that outside experts will also be brought in. For example, on the first day of regular classes September 8, Dr. Andrew Watson, a psychiatrist at the Faculty of Law at the University of Michigan, will give an all-day workshop for faculty and staff on the "psychodynamics of legal education and legal process".

Dean Fraser said that to mark the opening of the Faculty a meeting will be held September 3, which will be attended by UVic President Howard Petch and

Deputy Attorney-General David Vickers, and members of the local bar.

The afternoon of September 5 will be devoted to the examination of the curriculum and its objectives and to national trends in legal education. To attend, besides faculty and students, will be Dean John McLaren of the University of Calgary's new Faculty of Law, which opens in the fall of 1976.

Dean Fraser said his full faculty of nine had all arrived here by July 1, and have been concentrating all summer on working out the last details of the curriculum.

The legal process course will carry on as one of five law courses set out for the freshman year. The others are constitutional law, criminal law, private law, and the law legislation and policy.

Dean Fraser said the Faculty received 950 applications and 2,000 inquiries.

The successful 72, he said, represents a good mix of persons from a wide variety of backgrounds.

He noted that UVic's Faculty is the first to open in eight years in Canada, and the second in 15 years. The University of Windsor was the last one to open.



UVic campus has been invaded a number of times recently by U.S. military helicopters. What brings them here is interest in the university's cold water research. Last Friday, one brought in Lieutenant-Commander Art Keen of the U.S. Navy, in the morning and picked him up later in the day after he held discussions with Dr. Martin Collis (Physical Education) on cold water research and UVic's thermo-float jacket. The helicopter made its trips from Whidbey Island in Puget Sound. Dr. Collis and his associates Dr. John Hayward (Biology) and Dr. John Eckerson (Physical Education) are also carrying out discussions with the U.S. Coast Guard and a number of government and private organizations from various parts of the world. Also present at the Friday meeting was a Swedish businessman, Walter Van Sydow (a cousin of the actor Max), who is anxious to promote the jacket in Scandinavia. (McGill Photos)



AROUND THE RING UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA NEWSLETTER VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

FACULTY NEWS

PHYSICS

Dr. R.M. Pearce is sitting on a joint ad hoc committee on nuclear physics priorities to advise the Atomic Energy Control Board and the National Research Council on the rationales and priorities for future support to nuclear physics installations in Canadian universities. The committee will make recommendations in the next five to ten years on support of present installations, establishment of new ones, and on whether those supported by federal funds should be open to the nuclear physics community generally.

HISTORY IN ART

Martin Segger has been appointed sub-editor for a special British Columbia issue of the *Canadian Antiques Collector*, the last in a series of special numbers featuring a province-by-province survey of Canada's cultural heritage. The theme of the issue is current directions in cultural resource preservation and interpretation within B.C. Anyone wishing to submit an article can do so by contacting Mr. Segger through the department. The deadline is September 31.



Published every Friday
by University Relations
Director — Maurice Cowden
Editor — Bryan McGill
Art Editor — Jim Bennett
Deadline, noon Friday
one week before publication